

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants: | Upfal, et al. | Examiner: | Chen, Catheryne |
| Application No.: | 10/567,638 | Group Art Unit: | 1655 |
| Confirmation No: | 1309 | Docket: | 1557-6 PCT/US |
| Filed: | June 14, 2006 | Dated: | June 25, 2009 |
| For: | SOLVENTS FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF LIGNIN- CONTAINING MATERIALS | | |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO COMMUNICATION MAILED ON JUNE 17, 2009

This submission is in response to the Office Communication mailed on June 17, 2009, a response to which is due on July 17, 2009.

Applicants thank Examiner Chen for her guidance regarding a response to the Office Action mailed on June 17, 2009. Applicants wish to clarify that the election of an ionic liquid in the Response filed May 13, 2009 inadvertently omitted the term “salt” in the phrase “substituted imidazolium salt of a substituted aryl sulfonate.” Consequently, Applicants select a substituted imidazolium salt of a substituted aryl sulfonate as set forth in pending Claims 17 and 44. Notably, recently added Claim 60 (which depends on Claim 17) also reads on the aforementioned elected species as it is directed to a specific substituted imidazolium salt of a substituted aryl sulfonate, namely, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium xylene sulfonate.

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It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has been fully addressed. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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